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MINUTES AND REPORT

OF

MEETING OF COUNCIL OF

THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 15th September 1980 commencing at 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT:

Mr. M. Rundle	President
Mr. J. N. Black	
Mr. A. Dash	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. J. Rigby	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

Apologies for non-attendance were received from

Mr. K. D. Currey
Mr. P. W. Foster
Mr. B. H. Macintosh

In attendance:

Mr. L. J. Robinson, Consultant, Cooperative Federation
of New South Wales Centralised
Banking & Investment Scheme.

2. MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held 18th August 1980, having been circulated, were confirmed and adopted as a correct record.

3. CENTRALISED BANKING:

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Robinson to the meeting. Mr. Slattery, Chairman Financial Administrators Group reported a meeting of the Group had been held with Mr. Robinson preceding the Council meeting to enable expert opinions to be canvassed on the scheme. A report of that meeting is attached to these minutes. Mr. Robinson reported on the history and development of the scheme in New South Wales, first with the Credit Union League and in the past two years with the Cooperative Federation.

A survey conducted in New South Wales amongst Cooperatives produced 35 responses which indicated a surplus of credit balances to debit balances in their bank current accounts in the proportion of 2 to 1. Following this information the Cooperative Federation entered into arrangements with the Commercial Banking Corporation of Australia to undertake a centralised banking scheme and currently six participants are involved, producing an income to the Federation as well as a service to cooperatives. An essential requirements of such operations is for competent and regular staff to be available to do the detailed work involved on a daily basis. Time involved is estimated

at about three hours per day.

Mr. Robinson proposed consideration be given to marketing a proposal for a centralised banking scheme, if adopted as policy, but not actually entering into operations until about 20 cooperatives had indicated their desire to participate. This would enable a staff member to be put on to operate the scheme and should ensure its profitability from Day 1.

Mr. Robinson indicated his expertise could be available on a consultancy basis to develop the scheme in Victoria and estimated his costs would be in the region of \$5,000.

Mr. Slattery requested the submission from Mr. Robinson and the Cooperative Federation of New South Wales of the information sought in the initial survey and the result of that survey. He also sought information on the trading results to date of the scheme and also any marketing material used by the Federation to promote the scheme.

Mr. Robinson agreed to supply this material.

Council agreed:

Following receipt of the above material from New South Wales, a further meeting of the Financial Administrators group would be called to consider the proposal in depth. This would be followed by a meeting of likely participants in such a scheme to be followed by an active marketing programme with a view to implementing the scheme.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

i. Minute 3.i

Draft guide book on Cooperatives and Small Businesses completed by Mr. Griffiths and submitted to V.E.C.

ii. Minute 6.i

Letter signed by President submitted to Premier.
Copies prepared for circulation to members and tabled.

iii. Minute 10

Copies of agreed letter on Federal Election programme prepared for circulation to members and tabled.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

5.i To Bendigo Trading Cooperative Limited
re formation of Central Victorian Regional Association of Cooperatives
and request to participate in meetings, plus package deals for
overall Cooperative insurance.

5.ii To Emerald District Cooperative
re untraceable members.

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APPLICATION

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5.iii From Mildura Cooperative Fruit Co.
declining offer to participate in board meeting.

5.iv From Melbourne Access Video and Media Cooperative
re establishment of a Trust to supervise community
television in Victoria with the Cooperative Federation of
Victoria nominated as one organisation to comprise the Trust.

*Council noted the action by the Executive Officer,
welcomed the initiative of the Melbourne Access Video
and Media Cooperative and directed close liaison be
maintained on the project.*

5.v From Composite Buyers re Food Convention 29th-30th September
1980 at which one speaker will be Mr. Vern Moore, Vice President
of Corporate Services, Land O'Lakes Cooperative in the U.S.A.

*Council agreed the Executive Officer should attend
this convention.*

*Council directed that a meeting be arranged with
Mr. Moore to enable him to meet some leading
cooperative officials associated with Victorian
agricultural cooperatives.*

5.vi From Brotherhood of St. Laurence forwarding "Unemployment
Broadsheet". Mr. Rawlinson directed members' attention to
reference to the Cooperative Federation in this broadsheet
which has produced 12 enquiries concerning formation of
worker type cooperatives.

5.vii From Cooperative Federation of New South Wales
forwarding newsletter including statement of the Minister for
Cooperative Societies in that State.

5.viii From Cooperative Federation of Australia
requesting submissions to assist in a federal submission to
the Commonwealth Government organised "Management Education
Enquiry".

Mr. Dash agreed to assist the preparation of a submission
from the Cooperative Federation of Victoria.

5.ix From Cooperative Federation of Australia
seeking nomination of a resource person to participate in an
I.C.A. organised seminar in New Delhi concerned with
agricultural export marketing.

*Council proposed the General Manager of Murray
Goulburn Cooperative Limited be invited to
consider the proposal.*

6. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Applications for membership of the Federation were received from

Maryborough Bootstrap Trading Cooperative
Yarrawonga & District Rural Cooperative Society
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In both instances the relevant affiliation fee was submitted.
In neither instance was an annual report submitted and the Maryborough Bootstrap Trading Cooperative omitted to include a copy of its rules.

Subject to the relevant supporting documents being submitted, Council welcomed both the above applicants into membership of the Cooperative Federation of Australia with dues paid for the year ending 30th June 1981.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT:

An Income and Expenditure statement from 1st July 1980 to 31st August 1980, together with an estimated balance sheet at 31st August 1980, was submitted to the meeting, discussed and received.

8. ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Council was advised that 130 notices of the Conference scheduled for 28th October had been issued to the Victorian Cooperatives.

Council agreed a programme for the Conference.

Council agreed a minimum number of Cooperatives to be represented to ensure the Conference continues would be 30 cooperatives.

Council directed personal contact be made with the media in an endeavour to ensure maximum publicity to the function.

9. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

The Chairman reported the Legislation Committee met on 26th August 1980, from which recommendations for rule changes concerning election of Councillors were submitted. After general discussion

Council agreed that a submission be made to the Annual General Meeting for rule changes to provide for a Council of ten members one of whom shall be ex officio the nominee of the Cooperative Advisory Council of Victoria, three will be industry councillors and six general councillors.

Of the three industry councillors, one would be representative of producer cooperatives, one representative of trading cooperatives and one representative of credit cooperatives as defined in the Co-operation Act 1958.

One industry councillor will retire each year. Two general councillors will retire each year.

All retiring councillors will be eligible for re-nomination to the Council.

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10. CORPORATE PLAN:

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The Chairman further advised that a submission had been made to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies for further amendment to the Co-operation Act. The amendment requested is for Section 44a to provide for shares of members whose whereabouts are unknown for at least ten years, or as amended in the legislation currently in preparation, to be forfeited to the Cooperative and proceeds held in forfeited shares reserve account. An alternative has been provided for the Registrar for amendment of this section to enable regulations to be made relating to the classification of members' dormant accounts and to action that may be taken in respect of such accounts.

10. CORPORATE PLAN:

A report was submitted on action taken on items 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Corporate Plan.

11. EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

The Executive Officer reported on the second of 2 Director Training seminars held since the last meeting. 14 directors participated and the exercise was considered successful from an educational point of view and from the financial viewpoint a small surplus was achieved for revenue of the Federation.

12. REPORTS:

12.i Cooperative Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported two meetings of the Advisory Council held since the last meeting of Federation's Council. Indications are that progress is being made in the preparation of the new Cooperation Act but uncertainty still exists as to when it might be available for study and discussion with the Registrar prior to its introduction into Parliament.

Mr. Long expressed the concern of the Cooperative Federation at the continued delay in institution of legal proceedings in respect of Cooperative Farmers & Graziers Direct Meat Supply which have been anticipated for the past two years.

12.ii Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported on meetings held with the Board at the Yarrawonga & District Rural Cooperative Limited. Meetings held at Kyabrum and Rochester Herd Improvement Cooperatives. Had discussions held with the Emerald & District Cooperative. He reported on discussions with Wattle Park High School on the subject of establishment of Cooperatives in schools. He further reported on meetings with reporters of "The Age" and publications of a brief news item.

Mr. Rawlinson advised he has been asked to study school cooperatives and community cooperatives in the Brunswick area in the ensuing week. He has been invited to address a meeting in Mallacoota on the subject of possible formation of a retail food cooperative. He has accepted an invitation to participate in the Composite Buyers Food Convention on 29th - 30th September.

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12.iii Cooperative Federation of Australia

The Executive Officer reported advice has been received from the Cooperative Federation of Australia on the possibility of development of a national buying scheme for member cooperatives of State Federations with large vehicle fleets to purchase G.M-H Australian made vehicles. The development of such a scheme would have the advantage of injecting revenue into the operations of the Cooperative Federation of Australia in addition to providing better buying strength for individual cooperatives.

13. OTHER BUSINESS:

13.i Affiliation Fees

It was agreed relevant Cooperatives in Victoria would be circulated immediately to ascertain their possible involvement in such a scheme. Thereafter a Cooperative Federation of Australia liaison officer with G.M-H would visit Cooperatives for detailed discussions on likely offtake of vehicles in a calendar year commencing 1st January 1981.

Mr. Black referred to the report of the Executive Officer and interest expressed in operations of the Cooperative Federation with resistance against affiliation on the basis of the fee structure and the organisation of many Cooperatives into industry groups for possible association with the Federation through such a group.

Council accepted to undertake a review of the affiliation fee structure upon receiving a report from the Legislation Committee after detailed study.

13.i Retirement of President

Mr. Rundle gave notice of his intention not to seek re-election as Chairman of the Federation following the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28th October 1980.

Council directed that the first item of business at that Council meeting should be election of officers.

14. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled to be held following the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 28th October 1980.

15. CLOSURE:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10 p.m.

28/10/82

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1. PRESENT

2. MINUTES

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